

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5**

**DATE:** August 2, 2002

**SUBJECT:** Reports of Significant Developments and Activities  
Ending on July 29, 2002

**FROM:** William E. Muno, Director  
Superfund Division

**TO:** Thomas V. Skinner  
Regional Administrator

Bharat Mathur  
Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities, other significant developments, training/conferences, and stakeholder feedback:

**SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES**

**Door-to-Door Update/Cleanup Initiated (PCB Spill), St. Claire Shores, Michigan**

During the week of July 22, 2002, United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) On-Scene Coordinator Jim Augustyn and Public Affairs Specialist Ginny Narsete, Emergency Response Branch, went door-to-door and talked with residents at St. Claire Shores updating them on the cleanup of the polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) spill. Over 90% of the access agreements from homeowners were signed giving U.S. EPA access to start the cleanup. High levels of PCBs were found in drains and canals near Lake St. Claire near Detroit in February 2002. An ongoing investigation, sampling, and a site assessment since March 2001 has led to high public involvement and outreach. Although the source has not been found, the continued effort to cleanup the site has been a high priority. Public outreach and involvement has been a high priority with the residents. Weekly or daily stories are published in local newspapers on the efforts made to cleanup the PCBs. CNN will be interviewing the City manager on their community web page, considered one of the best for small towns by CNN. The web site also includes information from U.S. EPA and other agencies. The multi-agency team of State, local, and Federal agencies working together has produced an "exemplary job and team effort" according to Assistant City Manager Linda Paladino. During the signing of the access agreements, residents made many comments stating they were extremely impressed with Superfund Division Director William E. Muno's concern and knowledge of the PCB situation. Mr. Muno represented U.S. EPA at

a community meeting in June 2002. The cleanup began the week of July 29, 2002, and will continue for 3 to 4 months. A public information forum with all government agencies is scheduled for August 14, 2002, at the Library.

Contacts: Ginny Narsete (312-886-4359)  
Jim Augustyn (440-250-1742)

**Deployment, Major League Baseball All-Star Game, Milwaukee, Wisconsin**

On July 9, 2002, Emergency Response Branch Chief Rick Karl and On-Scene Coordinator Len Zintak deployed to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, at the request of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and Major League Baseball to support Weapon of Mass Destruction (WMD) response standby efforts at the All-Star Game. Other participating agencies included Federal Emergency Management Agency, Health and Human Services, Wisconsin Emergency Management, Wisconsin National Guard, Milwaukee County, and the City of Milwaukee. Level A response teams from both Superfund Technical Assistance & Response Team (START) contractors were also deployed to the area on the day of the game. Fortunately, they did not have to respond to any incidents.

Contacts: Rick Karl (312-353-9295)  
Len Zintak (312-886-4246)

**OTHER SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS**

**NICOR Gas Reimbursement, Mercury Spill Responses, Greater Chicago Metropolitan Area, Illinois**

On June 11, 2002, Nicor Gas reimbursed U.S. EPA for the amount of \$132,042.99 for U.S. EPA's oversight costs in the 2000-2001 Nicor Gas mercury spills in the Greater Chicago Metropolitan Area. U.S. EPA, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA), and Nicor investigated mercury spills in nearly half a million homes; and, cleaned up over 1,000 residences, several scrap yards, dozens of services centers, and several institutions. In July 2000, it was discovered that mercury was being spilled in residences during the removal and replacement of mercury regulators by Nicor and/or its subcontractor. Nicor hired a contractor to perform the cleanup of residences voluntarily with U.S. EPA's oversight, work plan approval, and air monitoring. Nicor was also issued a Unilateral Administrative Order to perform the cleanup of contaminated soils

in several scrap yards where mercury regulators were sent after they were removed from the residences.

Contacts: Carol Ropski (312-353-764)  
 Tom Krueger (312-886-0562)  
 Brad Stimple (440-250-1717)  
 Steve Faryan (312-353-9151)  
 Fred Micke (312-353-5123)

### **Phase 2 Outfall Study Begins, Indiana Harbor Canal, East Chicago, Indiana**

On July 16, 2002, On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Charlie Brasher and Nina Yeskis (Fully Integrated Environmental Location Decision Support (FIELDS) Support Section) along with Water Division Enforcement & Compliance Assurance Branch staff, met with representatives from Inland Steel and International Steel Group (ISG, formerly LTV) at Inland Steel, and spent the day in two boats on the canal attempting to match outfalls identified in Phase 1 of this study to existing National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits. Inland and ISG have agreed to forward additional information to U.S. EPA after further investigation on the outfalls of concern. The outfall study is part of the Indiana Harbor Canal (IHC) Pilot Project and on-going investigation into oil migration and accumulation on the surface of the highly contaminated IHC in East Chicago, Indiana.

Phase 1 of the IHC Outfall Study identified all outfalls on the 5 miles of canal (some 236). Each outfall was photographed, located by global positioning system (GPS), and characterized (volume of discharge, odor, color, etc.). The outfalls varied from large pipes and culverts to small openings and loose hoses thrown over the banks of the canal. In some cases discharges from the outfalls may not be regulated and represent a pathway for contaminants to be released to the canal. Preliminary data indicated over half of the outfalls may not have NPDES permits. Phase 2 focuses on matching outfalls with current NPDES permits. Once the source of outfalls without permits has been determined, U.S. EPA and Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) will pursue voluntary compliance and enforcement options.

Contacts: Nina Yeskis (312-886-0931)  
 Betty Lavis (312-886-7183)  
 Charles Brasher (312-886-9176)

### **TRAINING/CONFERENCES**

#### **Level II Tabletop Exercise, Marathon Ashland Pipe Line LLC, Woodhaven, Michigan**

On July 25, 2002, Marathon Ashland Pipe Line LLC (MAPL) conducted a tabletop exercise in Woodhaven, Michigan. Agencies taking part

in the exercise included the U.S. EPA, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, the Monroe County Emergency Management Agency, and U.S. Coast Guard. The exercise was facilitated for the MAPL Findlay Region by the Marathon Ashland Petroleum (MAP) Emergency Preparedness Group (EPG). The scenario presented was an accidental crude oil release of approximately 90,000 gallons from a pipeline into the Huron River in Flat Rock, Michigan. The majority of the crude oil in the scenario entered the river.

In the exercise, the local fire department was the first responder. MAPL responded to the scene as local, State, and Federal notification calls were placed. The Federal, State, and local agency responders were assimilated into a unified command structure with U.S. EPA assuming the Federal On-Scene Coordinator role. The unified command team proceeded with operational, planning, and joint information command support; and, corrected deficiencies in the initial response personnel and equipment deployment. A containment and recovery plan was implemented, which included the placement of a combination of hard boom and sorbent boom at numerous locations along the river with protective boom placement along areas of water intake and sensitive ecosystem areas. The recovery portion of the response plan was to use small vacuum trucks to collect the oil, which would then be offloaded into intermediary containment tanks, and then transferred via larger capacity vacuum trucks to MAPL property in the vicinity for storage and final disposition.

Contact: Jeff Kimble (734-692-7688)

**Visit, Jiangsu Provincial Academy of Environmental Science (China), Region 5, Chicago, Illinois**

On July 22, 2002, Mr. Jin Jian from the Jiangsu Provincial Academy of Environmental Science in China came to visit U.S. EPA Region 5 to learn about how U.S. EPA deals with emergency cleanups in Lake Michigan. It was explained in the presentation to Mr. Jian that Lake Michigan itself is in the U.S. Coast Guard's response zone. U.S. EPA's goal is to prevent spills from happening that could impact Lake Michigan and if the spill does happen, to minimize the damage that the spill can do. A general overview of the Oil Pollution Act and Superfund was given. Then specific sites were discussed in relation to U.S. EPA's goal to contain or remove any potential sources of contamination before the contamination could reach Lake Michigan. These sites included the Pier 33 emergency response, the Zephyr Refinery site, the Indiana Harbor Canal Project, and the Solvay Coke and Gas Plant site.

Contact: Barbi Lee (312-886-5296)

**Meeting, Field & Analytical Services Teaming Advisory Committee, Chicago, Illinois**

On July 17-18, 2002, the annual Field and Analytical Services Teaming Advisory Committee (FASTAC) meeting was held at the Drake Hotel in Chicago, Illinois. Bill Muno, Steve Ostrodka, and Jay Thakkar from Superfund Division attended the national meeting. Topics discussed included the Contract Laboratory Program (CLP), the Superfund Electronic Data Deliverable format, Regional implementation of the FASTAC strategy for selecting analytical services, a directive for use of FORM II lite to track CLP and non-CLP sample collection activities, and the Environmental Services Assistance Team (ESAT) budgets for each Region.

Contact: Jay Thakkar (312-886-1972)

**STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK**

**Expression of Gratitude (Contaminated Sediments Meeting in Chicago), Office of Science Policy, Washington, D.C.**

Kevin Y. Teichman, Acting Director, Office of Science Policy, wrote the following in a memorandum, dated July 25, 2002, to William E. Muno, Superfund Division Director:

"The Office of Science Policy would like to express its gratitude to Region V for hosting the "Issues in Assessing and Managing Ecological Risk Assessment at Contaminated Sediment Sites" workshop at the Metcalfe Federal Building on June 4-5, 2002... The meeting would not have been such a success without the valuable contribution of the following members of your staff:

Pam Gallichio - Visual Information Specialist  
Beatriz Guerra - Administrative Officer  
Brenda Jones - Ecologist  
Jamie Mikrut - Clerk Typist Student Aide  
Edgardo Munoz-Parrilla - Computer Specialist  
Lorraine Navarette - Clerk Typist Student Aide

Each of these individuals played an important role in hosting the meeting and all deserve congratulations for a job well done. In particular, we would like to highlight the efforts of Brenda Jones, who played an important role in planning, execution, and follow up to the meeting, and whose work has been exemplary. We would like to thank you for providing introductory remarks.

Once again, we would like to express our appreciation to Region V for hosting the meeting and providing technical and administrative support."

Contacts: Bill Muno (312-353-9773)  
 Brenda Jones (312-886-7188)  
 Pam Gallichio (312-886-0386)  
 Jamie Mikrut (312-886-2064)  
 Edgardo Munoz-Parrilla (312-353-1076)  
 Lorraine Navarette (312-353-6425)

### **Service Awards, Louisville District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**

Samir Mansy, Senior Chemist and Subject Matter Expert with the Louisville District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, recently presented awards to Remedial Project Manager Diana Mally on June 18, 2002, and Chemist Mike Chrystof on July 8, 2002. Ms. Mally received an Outstanding Service Award for outstanding support to the Joliet Army Ammunition Plant and continued support to the Louisville Chemistry Guideline. Mr. Chrystof received an Award of Excellence for outstanding contribution and continued support to the Louisville Chemistry Guideline.

Contacts: Diana Mally (312-886-7275)  
 Mike Chrystof (312-353-3705)

### **Words of Thanks (Beatriz Guerra), Flowers By Arrangement, Chicago, Illinois**

In a letter, dated July 22, 2002, from Kristin Eve Anderson, Principal, Flowers By Arrangement, to Bill Muno, Superfund Division Director, she expressed her thanks regarding assistance given by Beatriz Guerra, Administrative Officer. Beatriz received a call requesting information on who to contact to report a problem with someone throwing garbage in the trash bin in the alley from her flower shop. She reported that there was a bad smell and that liquids were leaking in front of her exit door by the alley. Beatriz inquired if she knew if it was a hazardous chemical problem in order to direct her call to the appropriate office. She informed Beatriz that she didn't think so. Beatriz then informed her that the U.S. EPA isn't the appropriate office to address the issue and informed her to contact the Department of Streets and Sanitation for the City of Chicago or her Alderman, and they should be able to help her with this issue. Kristin Eve Anderson, expressed her thanks to Bill Muno, as follows:

"Dear Bill:

I called with a question regarding a code violation today. Beatriz was not only helpful, but friendly & cordial - something

you rarely find in a government employee.

Thanks for your help! Kristin"

Contact: Beatriz Guerra (312-886-4753)

cc: Marianne Horinko (OSWER)  
Barry Breen (OECA)  
Steve Luftig (OSWER)  
Larry Reed (OERR)  
Larry Zaragoza (OSWER)  
Craig Beasley (OSWER)  
Michael Shapiro (OSWER)  
Sylvia Lowrance (OECA)  
Mike Cook (OERR)  
Region 5 State Superfund Coordinators  
Division/Office Directors  
ORA State Coordinators  
Regional Team Managers